

Gower Cycling Festival

Notes of meeting on 27th September 2018 in the Marriott Hotel

Present: Ian Davies (ID), Allyson Evans (AE), Nick Guy (NG), Pat Hansard (PH), David Judd (DJ), David Naylor (DN), John Sayce (JS), Sarah Thyer-Hughes, (ST), Chris Walsh (CW).

The meeting was chaired by JS, who welcomed ST to the meeting and introduced her. The main purpose of the meeting was to consider the future of the festival with DN standing down.

1. This year's Festival.

Feedback from the working group on DN's draft report has enabled him to finalise it. It and the reports of earlier festivals are now on <http://www.wheelrights.org.uk/GCF18.htm>.

While it was generally accepted that the format of the festival worked well ID noted that there was a need to cater more for working people. While there were weekend rides and at least one (usually two) evening rides he felt that more evening rides were needed.

2. Future Festivals

JS identified 3 options for continuing the festival:

- 1) Run it entirely by volunteers (as has been done to date.)
- 2) Involve a professional but with volunteer support.
- 3) Hand it over to an outside body to run it completely.

Dicky Smith (Ex. Action Bikes) was mentioned as the professional we might contact both for options 2 & 3.

JS asked all present to say which of these three options they preferred. There was an exchange of views on the following lines:

- DJ specifically did not favour option 3, a view which was generally shared.
- NG and ID favoured option 2.
- SD and PH drew attention to the need to comply with Data Protection laws and to address liability issues. PH noted that the latter led to the demise of the Gower Walking Festival. DN noted that with respect to these issues we had been careful to send emails bcc to large groups (eg GCF attendees) and that we carried out Cycling UK (previously CTC) risk assessments for each festival. As a Cycling UK affiliated group Wheelrights were insured.
- CW noted that the festival was not effective in recruiting Wheelrights members, also that the Festival is not consistent with our key aims of encouraging more people to do everyday journeys and campaigning for improved cycling infrastructure and, it could be argued, dilutes our resources. DJ agreed, as did others.
- DN noted that option 1. had worked well but for it to work in future somebody needed to take over his role. He had no experience of option 2 so could not comment on it. AE also noted that with option 1 a replacement for DN would be needed. She was concerned that we would lose control with the other options.

It was noted that with option 1 the costs were minimal. With everything done by volunteers, specifically managing the festival web page, designing flyer and posters and administration, the only costs involved were printing (c. £200 for the flyer.), limited paid adverts and some minor expenses. The £5 charge has always more than covered costs. The other options would cost a lot more.

The outcome of this exchange was that option 2 seemed to be the best way forward and that ID, NG, ST and CW would meet with Dicky Smith. NG to arrange this meeting. **[Action NG]**

Notes prepared by David Naylor